MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Sir, the term "Group Dialling Facility" is generally referred to the inter-dialling between a group of rural exchanges. Direct dialling facility already exist between metropolitan towns and the adjoining exchanges in their periphery.

(b) All the four metropolitan cities—Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras already have direct dialling facility with the exchanges in their periphery as per statement attached. *(See below)*

(c) The Government has under its consideration a scheme for rationalising the tariff between the exchange system of towns and adjoining exchanges in their periphery. In some cases the charges, which is yet to be decided, may be cheaper than the existing STD charges.

(d) The dialling facility between metropolitan towns and the peripheral exchanges already exist. The decision on introduction of the revised tariff is yet to be taken.

Statement

List of exchanges on the periphery of metropolitan towns which are having direct dialling facility

Delhi to	1. Noida (Surajpur)
	2. Sonepat
	3. Loni
	4. Shahdara East
	5. Gurgaon
	6. Ghaziabad
	7. Faridabad
	8. Bahadurgarh
	9. Ballabgarh
	10. Noida
Bombay to	1. New Bombay
	2. Basein
	3. Kalyan
Calcutta to	1. Bhatpara
	2. Chinsura
	3. Diamond Harbour
	4. Kalyani
	5. Tribeni
Madras to	1. Ponneri
	2. Tiruvallur
	3. M.M. Nagar (EPZ)
	4. Gummidipundi
	5. Guduvancheri

Improvement in aviation technology

*359. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is far behind in aviation techonology in the world;

(b) if so, what are the datails thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve navigation and communication facilities and avoid wastage of fuel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As a develpoing country, India may not be at par with industrialised nations in the matter of aviation technology. It would not, however, be correct to say that India is far behind.

(c) Modernisation of communication and navigation facilities at airports is a continuous process. Modern equipments like Airport Surveillan Radar (ASR) Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar (MSSR), instrument Landing System (ILS), Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR) have been installed at several airports. More such equipment are being procured for installation. An integrated project has also been approved for modernisation of Air Traffic Control at Bomby and Delhi airports.

To conserve aircraft fuel, air route rationalisation has been carried out by National Airports Authority in consultation with Air Headquarters.

Filling up of vacancies in United Bank of India in Assam

*360 SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the manpower position of the United Bank of India in Assam is far from satisfactory; and

(b) what are the reasons that the Central Government have not been filling up the vacancies in these Banks for a long time and the claim of the local employees are often denied by filling up the vacancies with employees from outside the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) United Bank of India has not reported any unsatisfactory man-power position in its offices/branches in Assam. The recruitment for officers in United Bank of India and of the clerical staff for all the public sector banks, including United Bank of India, for their branches coming within the jurisdiction of Banking Service Recruitment Board, Guwahati covering the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur is made by Banking Service Recruitment Board, Guwahati. While officers recruited by the Banking Service Recruitment Board for United Bank of India have all-India transfer liability, the candidate recruited for clerical cadre post are allotted to the vrious banks for posting within the State allotted to them. The system of recruitment is weighted in favour of recruitment of local people.

Allotment of staff quarters by A.I.

3326. SHRI MANMOHAN MATHUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2508 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th December, 1991 and state :

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in allotment of the staff quarters in Air India Colony, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi; and

(b) by when the above quarters are likely to be allotted to the eligible employees?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The wait list of employees for allotment of category 'A' has been exhausted. Applications are being processed for the new list and allotments would be made immediately after the wait list is finalised by the Housing Allotment Advisory Committee.

Construction of a air strip in Sikkim

3327. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Sikkim have proposed to the Central Government for the construction of an air strip in that State ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The feasibility for construction of an airport at Pangthang (Gangtok) in Sikkim was examined by a Committee which observed that such a construction was not financially viable.

Tourism Task Force Cell in I.T.D.C.

3328. DR. Z.A. AHMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what was the aim and objectives with which the Tourism Task Force Cell was created in India Tourism Development Corporation's Head Office during 1991;

(b) what was the criterion and justification for appointing a retired persons from Air Lines, with the experience and background of a Flight Purser, as the Director of the said Tourism Task Force in ITDC; and

(c) what quantum of amount has been spent by ITDC on the establishment and maintenance of the said Tourism Task Force Cell, till date besides the details of amount claimed and paid as TA / DA, entertainment, Telephones / telex and salary and wages of the Executives of Tourism Task Force till 29th February, 1992 and list of persons who availed the air travels?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The India Tourism Development Corporation set up a Tourism Task Force Cell in May,